

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, OVIP

SUBJECT: RESTRUCTURING OF MINISTERIAL COUNCIL DEBATES

SYG LUNS HAS CIRCULATED A PO ON THE SUBJECT OF RESTRUCTURING
MINISTERIAL COUNCIL DEBATES. MISSION COMMENTS ON LUNS' PAPER
CONTAINED SEPTTEL.

FULL TEXT OF LUNS PO/73/127 FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT

AT THE MINISTERIAL MEETING IN COPENHAGEN, THE IDEA
WAS CANVASSED INFORMALLY AMONG DELEGATIONS OF TRYING TO RE-
STRUCTURE THE DEBATE AT FUTURE MINISTERIALS INTO SHORT
INTERVENTIONS FOCUSSED ON INDIVIDUAL AGENDA ITEMS RATHER THAN
HAVING EACH MINISTER IN TURN COVER VITUALLY THE WHOLE FIELD
IN ONE COMPREHENISIVE STATEMENT. THIS IDEA FOUND SUPPORT AMONG
SEVERAL DELEGATIONS.

2. THE MAIN ARGUMENTS IN FAVOUR OF SUCH A NEW APPROACH
ARR AS FOLLOWS:

-SINCE NATO FOREIGN MINISTERS MEET ONLY TWICE A
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YEAR, THE FEELING IS THAT THEY SHOULD ENGAGE IN
SOMETHING CLOSER TO A TRUE DISCUSSION AND
DECISION-MAKING PROCESS;

-THE REAL PROBLEM OF THE MOMENT WOULD BE
ADDRESSED MORE DIRECTLY, ENSURING GREATER
LIVELINESS AND INTEREST (WHICH WOULD PRESUMABLY
BE REFLECTED OUTWARDS THROUGH THE PRESS);

-VALID PRECEDENTS EXIST IN THE DPC AND EUROGROUP.

3. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE FOLLOWING FACTORS SHOULD BE
BORNE IN MIND:

-MINISTERS USUALLY WISH TO MAKE A COMPREHENSIVE
INTERVENTION AS A BASIS TO DRAW ON FOR PRESS
BRIEFINGS AFTERWARDS;

- THE TIME REQUIRED MIGHT BE GREATER THAN UNDER
THE PRESENT SYSTEM, ALTHOUGH NOT EVERY MINISTER
WOULD NECESSARILY WISH OR FEEL OBLIGED TO
INTERVENE ON EACH POINT.

4. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SOME MINISTERS MIGHT FAVOUR A
HYBRID APPROACH: A GENERAL DEBATE COMPRISING A SERIES OF
NATIONAL STATEMENTS FOLLOWED BY INTERVENTIONS ON SPECIFIC
AGENDA ITEMS.

5. I SUGGEST THAT PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES MAY WISH
TO GIVE THOUGHT TO THIS MATTER WITH A VIEW TO EVENTUAL
DISCUSSION IN COUNCIL

END TEXT

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